

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threat and Capabilities (TUTC), today held a hearing on the military's efforts to secure its digital networks against hackers and other cyber threats. The hearing, titled "Operating in the Digital Domain: Organizing the Military Departments for Cyber Operations," provided members of TUTC with the opportunity to learn about the progress the Armed Services have made in organizing to carry out a full range of cyber operations – and what work still needs to be done.

"While our Armed Forces have taken significant steps to secure their networks against potential threats, much more must be done to protect these networks," said Rep. Sanchez. "There are still significant risks facing the U.S. electrical grid, including cyber attacks aimed at shutting down generators and other equipment. Additionally, the defense agencies aren't sharing enough information about the strengths and weaknesses of their networks. We can't have effective, secure cyber operations without having these conversations."

A copy of Rep. Sanchez's opening statement is available below:

"Good Afternoon. I would like to welcome you all and thank you for joining us here today.

"The recent announcement that the Department of Defense (DOD) suffered a major compromise of classified military computer networks has renewed discussions about what more DOD and the government should do to operate in the digital domain. The establishment of U.S. Cyber Command and the announcement of a new cybersecurity strategy by Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn are important milestones, but more needs to be done.

"Today, the Subcommittee is looking to discuss three main objectives for this hearing:

1. Understand the planned organizational structure for the Military Services cyber component organizations, and how they will present forces to U.S. Cyber Command (CYBERCOM).
2. Understand Service challenges to recruiting, retaining and training a cadre of cyber operations professionals.
3. Discuss initiatives supporting Service-specific requirements for cyber operations.

"The purpose of this hearing is for Members of this Subcommittee to learn what progress the Services are making in organizing to carry out the full range of cyber operations, including computer network defense, offense and exploitation functions. We also hope that the witnesses will be able to flesh out the doctrinal, training and recruiting needs to enable Service concepts.

"Today, we have four distinguished witnesses before us. We have Vice Admiral Bernard J. McCullough, III of the U.S. Navy, the Commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. 10th Fleet; Lieutenant General George J. Flynn, U.S. Marine Corps is the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration; Major General Rhett Hernandez, U.S. Army is the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7; and Major General Richard Webber, U.S. Air Force is the Commander of Twenty-Fourth Air Force.

"Once again I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today and I look forward to hearing your testimonies. Without objection, we will accept your written statements as part of the official record.

"I'd also like to remind the witnesses that we'd like for you to briefly sum up your statements, and we will be observing the 5 minute rule for questions from the members. I will now yield to the Ranking Member from Florida, Mr. Miller for his opening statement. Thank you."